

therapeutic bag of the present invention could be molded of one piece of material. (Official Action, page 2.)

Method claims 21-25 claim steps incorporating the elements of the therapeutic bag as claimed in claims 1-20 of Group I. For example, independent method claim 21 claims steps incorporating the elements of claims 1, 2, and 4, and no other steps. The product as claimed in claims 1-20 is provided specifically by the steps of method claims 21-25. For example, the elements of claims 1, 2, and 4, and no other elements are provided through the steps of claim 21. Method claims 26-28 claim steps for utilizing “a therapeutic bag of claim 1,” rather than for making a product. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the product as claimed in claims 1-20 and the methods as claimed in claims 21-28 are linked as described, such that the products and process of claims in both groups are not materially different. Thus, a search encompassing claims in each group would not be unduly burdensome. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

II. Election of Species

In the Official Action, the examiner restricts prosecution to a single disclosed species. Applicant hereby **elects the “tie-wrap straps of Figure 2”**. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12 and 13 are readable upon the elected species. This species election is made *with traverse*.

Applicant respectfully submits that “the zip-lock attachment mechanism recited in claim 3” is not a species of attaching a therapeutic bag of the present invention in a desired location (on a wearer’s body), as identified by the examiner. According to the present specification, “the zip-

lock attachment mechanism" is a *sealing* mechanism for the therapeutic bag itself. (Present Specification, page 7, lines 10-22.) As stated in the Official Action, claim 1 is currently generic. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable, that each of the species ("the tie-wrap straps of figure 2, the stretch wrap of figure 3, the first and second pair of tie strings not shown") are subsumed within this generic claim, that a search encompassing claims in each of these alleged species would not be unduly burdensome, and that all of these claims should be prosecuted together. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the restriction requirement related to species be withdrawn.

The Office is respectfully invited to contact J. Michael Boggs at (336) 747-7536, to discuss any matter relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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J. Michael Boggs
Reg. No. 46,563

KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP
1001 West Fourth Street
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101-2400
(336) 747-7536 (Phone)
(336) 734-2632 (Facsimile)

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